

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

UNCLAS STATE 208719

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, TU

SUBJECT: ACCESS TO MT. ARARAT AREA TO RESEARCHERS

REF: ANKARA 5580

ATTENTION OF DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN DRAWN TO BRIEF ARTICLE IN NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY AUGUST 8, WHICH REPORED THAT SIX AMERICANS AND AN AUSTRALIAN IN ANKARA SAY THEY HAVE PERMISSION TO LOOK FOR NOAH'S ARK. TWO MEMBERS OF THIS GROUP ARE NAMED -- ERYL CUMMINGS, 71, A REAL ESTATE BROKER FROM FARMINGTON, N.M., AND MIKE HARRIS, 40, A FILM MAKER FROM TAMPA, FLA., WHO IS MANAGER OF THE EXPEDITION. HARRIS IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW FROM ANKARA REPORTEDLY TOLD THE TIMES THAT PARTY PLANNED TO LEAVE WEEKEND OF AUGUST 7-8, CLIMB 12,000 TO 15,000 FEET ON THE EAST SLOPE OF ARARAT AND THEN RETURN TO ANKARA IN 10 TO 14 DAYS.

2. AS THIS ARTICLE HAS ALREADY REVIVED HOPES OF OTHERS WHO HAD WANTED PERMISSION TO CLIMB ARARAT, WE WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION OF TURKISH GOVERNMENT POSITION REFTTEL, AND ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY MIGHT HAVE REGARDING CUMMINGS-HARRIS GROUP. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** ACCESS TO MT. ARARAT AREA TO RESEARCHERS  
**TAGS:** SCUL, TU, US, (CUMMINGS, ERYL), (HARRIS, MIKE)  
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